



TUESDAY
March 17, 1959
5:23 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE SECRETARY TO MR. GREENE

Sec said he was feeling better this afternoon. He said he thought it would be desirable for him to have a talk with Herter, Merchant, maybe Murphy before seeing President and Macmillan on Friday. He said he did not know whether Pres was having anyone else at that meeting or not. G. said he understood not. G said Herter, Murphy Merchant and Reinhardt had meeting with President on position papers on certain questions that were expected to come up. Pres commented on only a few, especially that on nuclear testing and surprise attack, and put forth the idea re suspension of atmospheric testing. That meeting seemed so satisfactory there will probably be more of that with the Pres who has a very busy week with the Irish et al. There was also a meeting on contingency planning with Pres and McElroy this afternoon which was very satisfactory. G. said he had been in on some of the preliminary work so that he could brief the Sec before his meeting with Herter, or in lieu of it. Re Germany we were leaving the substance to the working group. We would have to get into the reply to the Soviet note and discuss if appropriate the timing and possibly content of a Western draft peace treaty, but Pres and Macmillan would not discuss details. Re the question of German reunification, we cannot acknowledge we are deferring reunification as an ideal, but we could acknowledge that free elections might come at a later stage than the 1955 proposals. On European security, disengagement. Suggestion made to President that any security arrangements not linked to German reunification would be without compensation to West. Sec said he doubted if he wanted to do much paper work unless we have something new to put forward. G. said nothing of that nature, unless new elements appears as we got closer to the event. Re the meeting, G. asked if the Sec were thinking of Thursday. Sec said yes. Sec said he would

think Herter would want to see him before he saw them. If the Dept has views of its own Sec said he would think that they would want him to reinforce them and Sec said he needed to know what they were. G. said he would discuss it with Herter. Sec said there would be the issue of the Summit meeting; he didn't know what else.

G. said something on testing. Sec said he knew nothing of the Pres' intentions for Friday. G. said Herter said he would be coming at 11 and taking off from the hospital for Camp David. Then suggested the two might lunch with you. Sec said he would rather not do the luncheon, 3/4 hour of talking was about all he could stand -- however he would do whatever the President wanted. What about pictures? G. said he expected there would be some. Sec asked how he should dress. They decided it would be better to wear a dressing gown or some indication of hospital attire. G. said he would speak with Hagerty about it.

Sec said he thought the Pres speech went off pretty well. He had watched it on TV. G. said Linc White had been asked that, and Sec said to tell W. he had watched it. G. asked how the Sec felt about the charts. Sec said they were difficult to use ~~very~~ effectively. He didn't know why they had emphasized the distance of Berlin behind Soviet lines; and the missile chart he couldn't see. G. mentioned the White House had received an unusually large number of telegrams, mostly favorable. Sec said he had spoken to Pres as soon as the speech was over. They mentioned the use of the Sec's quotes. Sec said he felt there was a fourth way of dealing with the situation besides giving in, fighting or negotiating -- you could stand pat, until they backed down.

Sec said the x-ray pictures had showed nothing -- no fear of bone cancer. He thought becoming more active would help. Sec said Heaton felt he would stay around until Monday anyway. G. said that would change the announcement a bit. They discussed the announcement. G. said he felt the original language had not been adequately



authoritative. G. said he had talked to AWDulles and he thought there might be some merit in it, but he had not given its final views. Sec said he was tired now and they could talk about it tomorrow.

G. told Sec about Sydney Smith's sudden death. Sec said he was a nice man and he presumed messages would be going out from him to Mrs. Smith. G. said yes.

cjp